

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

- a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post;
- a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post; and
- a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post; whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

2. A support bracket according to claim 1, further comprising the following:

- a first tab connected to the first slot; and
 - a second tab connected to the second slot;
- whereby the first and second tabs are adapted and constructed to facilitate opening of the slots for insertion and removal of the cross-arms therefrom.

3. A support bracket according to claim 2, wherein the bracket is fabricated from an electrically insulative material.

4. A support bracket according to claim 3, wherein the bracket is fabricated from a relatively flexible electrically insulative material.

5. A support bracket according to claim 4, wherein the bracket is fabricated from a thermoplastic material.

6. A support bracket according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is fabricated from polypropylene.

7. A support bracket according to claim 2, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib adjacent to the third slot.

5 8. A support bracket for securing wire fence elements to posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the bracket comprising the following:

a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post;

10 a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, the second slot being generally aligned with the first slot; and

15 a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post, the third slot being generally perpendicular to the first and second slots;

whereby the bracket can be mounted to the post in a first position in which the leg is received in the third slot, and a second position in which the leg extends opposite the third slot.

20 9. A support bracket according to claim 8, further comprising the following:

a first tab connected to the first slot; and

a second tab connected to the second slot;

25 whereby the first and second tabs are adapted and constructed to facilitate opening of the slots for insertion and removal of the cross-arms therefrom.

10. A support bracket according to claim 9, wherein the bracket is fabricated from an electrically insulative material.

11. A support bracket according to claim 10, wherein the bracket is fabricated from a relatively flexible electrically insulative material.

12. A support bracket according to claim 11, wherein the bracket is fabricated from a thermoplastic material.

13. A support bracket according to claim 12, wherein the bracket is fabricated from polypropylene.

14. A support bracket according to claim 9, further comprising at least one reinforcing rib adjacent to the third slot.

15. A method for securing wire fence elements to fence posts having T-shaped cross-sections with a leg and two cross-arms, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a first support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post;

providing a second support bracket including a first slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of a fence post, a second slot adapted and constructed to receive a cross-arm of the fence post, and a third slot adapted and constructed to receive a leg of the fence post;

mounting the first bracket to a post in a first position in which the leg of the post is received in the third slot of the bracket; and

mounting the second bracket to a post in a second position in which the leg of the post extends opposite the third slot of the bracket.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the following steps:

providing respective first tabs connected to the first slots of the brackets;

providing respective second tabs connected to the second slots of the brackets; and

using the tabs for leverage to open the slots for insertion and removal of the fence post cross-arms therefrom.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the steps of providing a first and second bracket comprise fabricating the brackets from a relatively flexible electrically insulative material.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the steps of providing a first and second bracket comprise fabricating the brackets from a thermoplastic material.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the steps of providing a first and second bracket comprise fabricating the brackets from polypropylene.

20. A method according to claim 16, wherein the steps of providing a first and second bracket comprise providing at least one reinforcing rib adjacent to the third slot.